

Alabama-Georgia Radioactive Material Transportation Exercise
March 24, 2005
Sponsored by Georgia and Alabama Emergency Management Agencies
with support from the
United States Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After approximately six months of planning and conducting numerous MERRTT sessions, Georgia and Alabama Emergency Management Agencies partnered with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Region 3 Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) and the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) to conduct an exercise involving a radioactive material shipment. Emergency responders from Haralson County, GA participated in a full response exercise on March 24, 2005. The exercise involved a multiple vehicle accident including a TRUPACT II being knocked off the WIPP shipment transporter. The accident involved a total of ten casualties with the local hospital receiving and treating the 10 casualties. The exercise extent of play included the Savannah River Site Emergency Duty Officer, TRANSCOM CMR in Carlsbad, NM, and the State 24-Hour Warning Points. To assist in size up and recovery operations Haralson County responders requested assistance from the State Regional Hazardous Materials Team, Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division-Environmental Radiation Program Team and the Region 3 Radiological Assistance Program Team. The Southern States Energy Board was involved in the exercise planning process and elected to produce a video documenting the effort required to plan, train and conduct this scale of an exercise. The SSEB is working with TEPP and State of Georgia officials to complete the video script and is scheduled to finalize the video by late May. At the beginning of the exercise planning process each agency elected to develop exercise specific objectives. To assist each agency in the evaluation of their objectives the evaluation criteria from twelve objectives were selected from the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Planning Tools modeled after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Program Manual on Hazardous Materials Exercise Evaluation Methodology (HM-EEM). In the opinion of the Evaluators, all thirteen objectives were met or partially met. The Exercise/Evaluation Team identified several noteworthy practices that the various agencies can continue to build upon. Also, Evaluators identified several improvement areas for each agency.